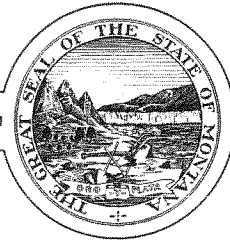


COMMISSIONER OF  
POLITICAL PRACTICES

EXHIBIT 12  
DATE 2/5/13  
HB 2



STATE OF MONTANA

JAMES W "JIM" MURRY  
COMMISSIONER  
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**Mission Statement:**

To monitor and to enforce, in a fair and impartial manner, campaign practices and campaign finance disclosure, lobbying disclosure, business interest disclosure of statewide and state district candidates, elected state officials, and state department directors, ethical standards of conduct for legislators, public officers, and state employees and to investigate legitimate complaints that arise concerning any of the forgoing.

**Candidates/IT**

- Implemented mandatory electronic filing for all statewide candidates on March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012.
- Worked with several entities to provide Candidate Campaign Schools for the 2012 election cycle.
- Staff attended and instructed at the 2012 Council on Governmental Ethics Conference in Columbus, Oh.
- Processed, Audited and Certified the following:
  - a. 872 Candidates
  - b. 160 Ballot Issue Committees/Incidental Committees
  - c. 156 PAC's
  - d. 126 Party Committees

**2013 Lobbyists/Principals**

- Registered approx. 243 lobbyists (as of 1/8/13)
- Registered approx. 295 principals (as of 1/8/13)

**Complaints and Decisions**

- 43 campaign finance complaints on the docket (10 since the November election)
- 1 ethics complaint of the docket
- 1 lobbying complaint
- 10 Investigations are complete
- 5 campaign finance complaints are stayed pending District Court
- 18 decisions issued
- 13 dismissed
- 5 Active Investigations

### **Litigation**

- Western Tradition Partnership I
- Western Tradition Partnership II
- Western Tradition Partnership III
- MRP v. COPP – 1<sup>st</sup> Judicial District Court
- ATP v. COPP
- MRP v. Schweitzer, COPP
- Lefer v. COPP
- Berry v. Gallik - resolved
- Fox v. Molnar- appealed Supreme Court decision
- Zastrow v. COPP, AG, McCulloch, Yellowstone County
- Sanders County Republican Central Committee v. COPP - Resolved
- National Association for Gun Rights v. COPP

### **Budget Proposal**

COPP requested a full time agency legal counsel, at a cost of \$71,503 per fiscal year. The 2007 Legislature granted us a full time investigator, which has helped with the backlog of cases. However, the contracted attorney at the Department of Justice can't keep up with the investigator. The contract attorney is only available for one quarter of his time. In addition to the complaint docket, COPP has seen a significant increase in litigation. An agency legal counsel would result in a \$13,497 cost reduction in legal costs.

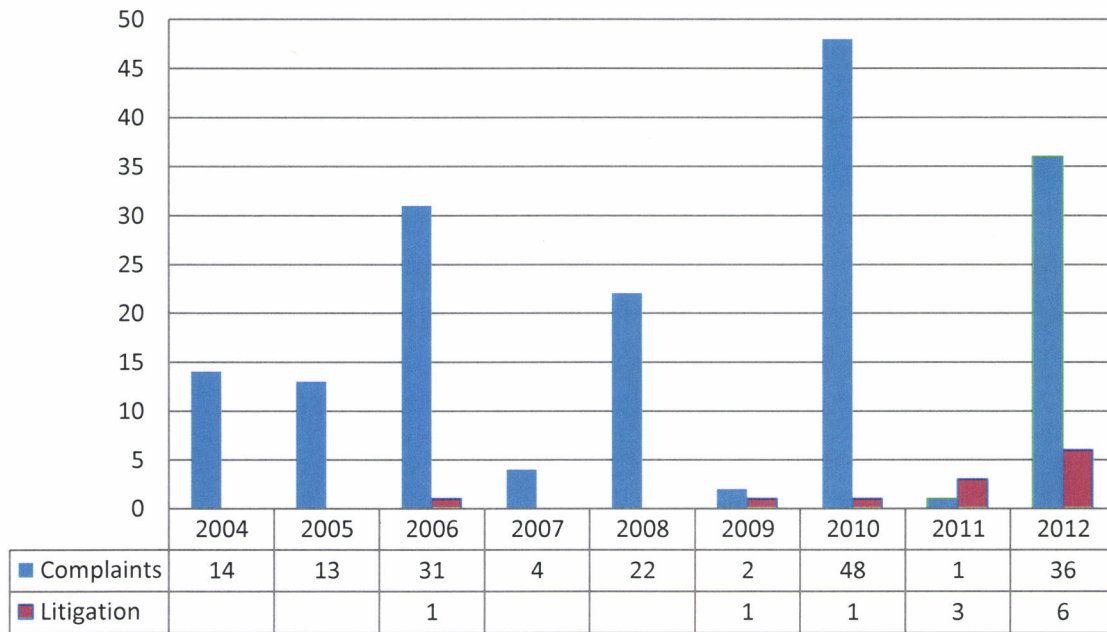
### **Contact Information**

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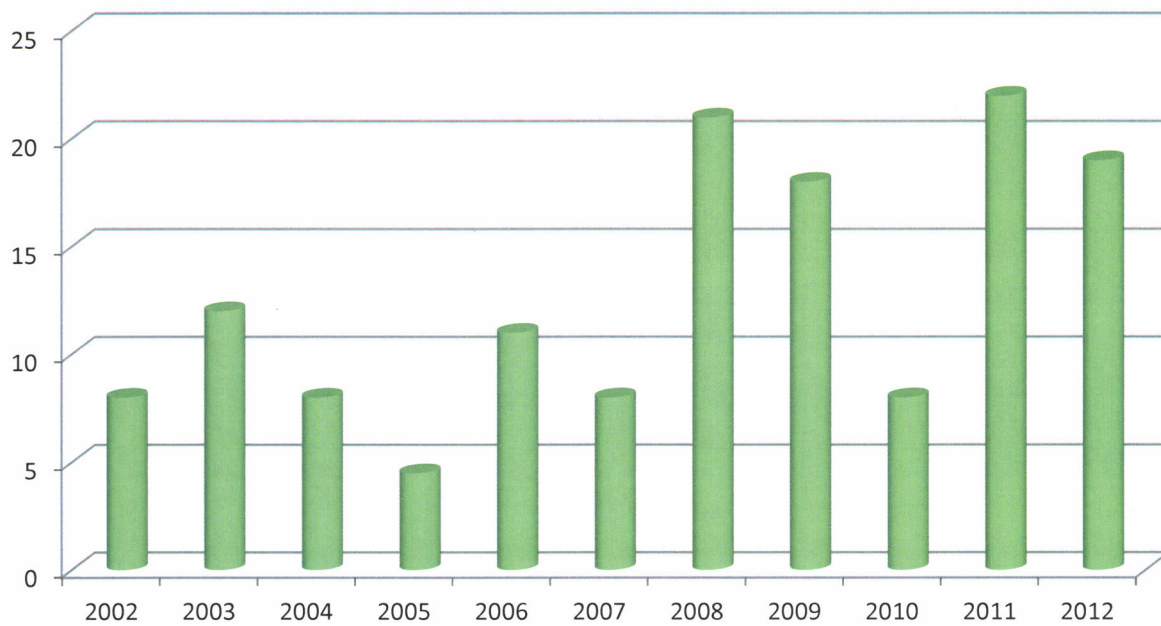
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## Complaints/Litigation History



- Since 2004 the number of complaints have increased by 140%
- Lawsuits have tripled since 2008

## Ten Year History of Decisions



2007 Legislature authorized FTE (Investigator), 47% increase in the number of decisions completed